

URGENT ACTION

TWO MORE EXECUTED IN JAPAN, ONE STILL AT RISK

Two men, Ogata Hidenori and Shinozawa Kazuo, were hanged in the Japanese capital, Tokyo, on 28 July. Of five men on death row in Japan highlighted by Amnesty International in UA 54/09, four have now been executed. The fifth man, Zoda Hiroshi, could be executed at any time.

Ogata Hidenori (also known by the name Hideki) and **Shinozawa Kazuo** were hanged in Tokyo Detention Centre. They had been convicted of murder. Shinozawa Kazuo's death sentence was confirmed by the Supreme Court in February 2007. Ogata Hidenori had expressed his intention to withdraw his appeal against the death sentence filed by his attorney. The Supreme Court confirmed his death sentence in July 2007. They were the first people to be put to death since a new government took office in Japan following elections in August 2009.

Zoda Hiroshi remains in imminent danger of execution. He is also held in Tokyo detention centre.

Executions in Japan are by hanging and are usually carried out in secret. Prisoners are typically given a few hours' notice but some may be given no warning at all. This means that prisoners who have exhausted their appeal options spend their time on death row knowing they could be executed at any time. Families are notified after the execution has taken place.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Japanese, English or your own language:

- Expressing regret at the Justice Minister's decision to proceed with the executions of Ogata Hidenori and Shinozawa Kazuo;
- Urging the Minister not to execute Zoda Hiroshi;
- Calling on the Minister to order an immediate moratorium on the death penalty with a view to full abolition and to commute the sentences of all those now on death row.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 10 SEPTEMBER 2010 TO:

Justice Minister

Keiko Chiba
Ministry of Justice
1-1-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8977
Japan

Fax: +81 3 5511 7200

Salutation: Dear Minister

And copies to:

Prime Minister
Naoto Kan
Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office
1-6-1 Nagata-cho
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8968
Japan

Fax: +81 3 3581 3883

Email: (via website)

<http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/forms/comment.html>

Newspaper

Asahi Shimbun
5-3-2 Tsukiji
Chuo-ku
Tokyo 104-8011
Japan

Fax: +81 3 3545 0285

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives of Japan accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 54/09 (ASA 22/002/2009). Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA22/002/2009/en> and <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA22/012/2009/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

These execution orders are the first to be signed by Minister of Justice Keiko Chiba since she took office as part of the government formed by the Democratic Party of Japan in September 2009. Seven people were executed in 2009, but there had been no executions since 28 July 2009.

Minister Chiba, who has previously spoken out against executions, announced plans to set up a working group on the death penalty within the Ministry of Justice following the hangings on 28 July 2010. She is the first Minister to attend the executions in person.

Further information on UA: 54/09 Index: ASA 22/006/2010 Issue Date: 30 July 2010

